

Rich Young
600 Admiral Blvd., Unit 908
Kansas City, MO 64106

April 12, 2019

Commissioner Geoffrey Starks
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Proposed T-Mobile/Sprint Merger

Dear Commissioner Starks,

I am writing to you today to offer a somewhat different perspective on the proposed T-Mobile/Sprint merger – that of a long-time Sprint employee.

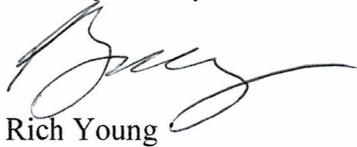
I have been an employee of Sprint for 32 years, which is an extreme rarity these days. My tenure with Sprint reflects a strong and genuine loyalty that extends in both directions: my loyalty to Sprint, and the loyalty that this company has shown me throughout my career here. Sprint has provided me with opportunities to grow, learn and advance through the years in a variety of roles. I am now the director of our International operations.

I am writing to you today because I am deeply concerned about the future of my company and all 26,000+ of my fellow employees if the proposed merger with T-Mobile is not allowed to proceed. Over the past 10 years, I have witnessed my company and colleagues battle fiercely to overcome significant headwinds in competing against vastly larger competitors. I have been a part of multiple significant cost reduction initiatives in the past few years, including a reduction in headcount of over 40% in my own organization, just to keep Sprint from going out of business.

While we have avoided bankruptcy and made significant improvements, it is clear to me that cost-cutting alone is not a sustainable path forward and cannot lead to long-term success. The mere fact that 93% of the cash flow in the US mobile industry is generated by 2 companies, AT&T and Verizon, should ring alarm bells for those who are considering and judging the merits of this proposed merger. While I have tremendous faith in my team and my colleagues at Sprint, the odds are clearly stacked against us as a stand-alone company. Some parties assert that the proposed merger will reduce the number of mobile competitors from 4 to 3. Given the very serious challenges over Sprint's ability to survive and thrive as a stand-alone nationwide carrier, I believe that if this merger is not approved, we may see the number of mobile service providers reduced to 3 anyway, and that such a forced reduction will have dire consequences for consumers, for the industry, for 5G deployment, for jobs (at Sprint and elsewhere), and more.

I admit that when this merger was announced, I struggled emotionally with the loss of the Sprint brand, which has a proud history with roots dating back to 1899. However, I have come to realize that the proposed merger is the best option not only for Sprint employees, but also for consumers and the US economy as a whole. Allowing T-Mobile and Sprint to merge will create a fierce 3rd competitor in the US, continuing the companies' history and culture as industry disruptors, providing the best opportunity for price competitiveness and job creation. I am convinced that the proposed merger provides the best option for job security and career growth for myself, my 26,000+ Sprint colleagues, and for the tens of thousands of T-Mobile employees.

Thank you for your time and attention,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Young', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Rich Young